

Message Text

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22

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /121 W

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R 131540Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6683

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1487

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RESTATES GOI POSITION ON CONTINUED UK
FISHING

1. PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON TOLD PARTY MEETING OCTOBER 11
THAT BRITISH WOULD BE ABLE TO FISH INSIDE ICELAND'S CLAIMED
200-MILE JURISDICTION AFTER DECEMBER 1 ONLY WITH APPROVAL OF
GOI. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, PM SAID IT WAS UP TO ICELAND
TO DECIDE WHETHER IT WOULD ACCORD UK FISHING PRIVILEGES IN
EXCHANGE FOR RECIPROCAL RIGHTS FOR ICELANDIC FISHERMEN IN
NORTH SEA AND OFF GREENLAND. STRESSING THAT "RECIPROCITY"
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WOULD BE SOLE BASIS FOR CONTINUED BRITISH FISHING, HALLGRIM-

SSON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THERE WILL BE NO RENEWED INTERVENTION BY (UK) WARSHIPS."

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2. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER WAS REPEATING WHAT HAS BECOME STANDARD GOI LINE ON ISSUES, IE, ICELAND'S INTEREST IN RECIPROCAL RIGHTS ALONE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER UK CONTINUES TO FISH HERE; PRESSURE TACTICS, SUCH AS THOSE USED BY BRITISH IN PAST, WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. HOWEVER, QUITE APART FROM WHETHER UK SHARES THIS VIEW, GOI FORMULATION LEAVES UNANSWERED TWO OTHER TOUGH QUESTIONS: WHETHER GOI CALCULATES THAT ICELAND IN FACT HAS SUFFICIENT FISHING INTEREST IN EEC WATERS TO OFFSET BRITISH CATCH LOCALLY AND, EVEN IF THIS IS CASE, WHETHER SUCH ECONOMIC RATIONALE WILL MAKE PALATABLE HERE WHAT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNPOPULAR DECISION IN PRINCIPLE.

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BLAKE

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Message Attributes

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